

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6942

BILL NUMBER: SB 202

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 1, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Physician Assistant Prescription Authority.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Miller

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows a physician assistant to prescribe prescription drugs other than controlled substances under specified circumstances and within specified limitations.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) oversees the state regulation of physician assistants. The PLA may incur additional expenses if physician assistants are granted prescriptive authority. The promulgation of rules related to this bill is expected to require the PLA's Physician Assistant Committee to meet monthly in FY 2008 and bimonthly in FY 2009. (The Committee currently meets quarterly.) The PLA has estimated the potential increased committee costs to be \$12,640 for the first year and \$6,320 for the second year. The PLA may also experience an increase in telephone inquiries about the proposed changes. The PLA may also see an increase in disciplinary actions filed against physician assistants if prescriptive authority is granted. This expense would be dependent upon individual circumstances.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including funds that otherwise would be reverted or from new appropriations. The PLA reverted \$81,600 in FY 2005 and \$63,329 in FY 2006 to the General Fund. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues: The proposal may affect the number of new applications and the amount of renewal fees the PLA collects. The specific impact is indeterminable although the Professional Licensing Agency reports that granting prescriptive authority to physician assistants could attract more practitioners

to the state. As of June 2006, there were 577 certified physician assistants with active certificates in Indiana. The PLA estimates that this number could double in five years if prescriptive authority is granted. The cost for an initial application is \$100, and the biennial renewal cost of a certificate is \$50. Revenue collected from the physician assistant application and renewal fees for FY 2006 equaled \$40,630. These fees are deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Professional Licensing Agency.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Barbara McNutt, Chief Counsel, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency.

Fiscal Analyst: Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.